

ARBORIVITAL MEDICINE.

BEING AN INQUIRY INTO THE CURATIVE POWERS OF SOME OF
OUR COMMON FIELD AND GARDEN PLANTS, JUDGED
OF BY THE DISEASES OF THE EAR.

BY ROBERT T. COOPER, M.A., M.D., LONDON,

(Continued from September, 1893.)

VIOLA TRICOLOR. CHEIRANTHUS CHEIRI.

It is often said that the formulation of doctrines in religion has done more to curtail and warp the beneficial influence of true religion than any single factor. Yet in the absence of doctrine it is impossible to conceive of a religious system. A like remark applies to medicine ; the formulation of doctrine may tend to narrow unduly the prescriber's sphere of action, even while most desirable in the interests of uniformity and cohesion. The fact is that just as religious sects are tolerating much greater latitude of expression in the matter of doctrine, so must the sect of sects in medicine, Homœopathy, allow a freer hand to her adherents in the application of doctrines usually considered homœopathic. Hahnemann has pointed out the necessity for giving one remedy at a time, and carefully observing its action and selecting it on the principle of similars ; all of which is eminently scientific.

My principal divergence from this scheme consists simply in taking upon myself the liberty to administer on occasions a remedy without being able to prove that any similitude exists between its symptoms and those of the disease to be cured, and in my insistence even more than Hahnemann did upon the solitary dose in the obstinate chronic affections, such as are, undoubtedly, those of the ear. I refer to this because some of my friends make almost as much complaint at my not giving up the Homœopathic Hospital altogether as they used, some years ago, to do at the absence of clinical teaching therein. Complaint like this goes for very little as long as their own liberty of action is not interfered with. It will be an evil day for the Homœopathic Hospital when its staff acknowledge their unwillingness to use all fairly legitimate means of investigating the action of drugs, amongst which means clinical investigation must take a prominent part. Be this as it may, the aim of all of us ought to be to make inquiry into the forces of nature in the interests of the

sick, and not to impede progress by useless discussion. Each practitioner should be, in spite of adverse criticism, the keeper of his own conscience, and adopt the method he finds most successful of drug selection. If any of us effect a cure of an obstinate case of disease with a single remedy, I hold, with almost all true homœopaths, that such a case ought to be reported, and, further, that until the reporter has good grounds for pointing out what feature in the case constitutes an indication for the remedy, he had better not pronounce absolutely upon it ; while if some purely fanciful reason has led to the selection of his remedy, I hold it to be better to state this in a plain and unmistakable way than to remain silent in order to please the hypercritical. As long as the prescriber does not attach undue importance to the reasons for his selection, the mere statement of these reasons can do no harm.

Primitive races have furnished us with very valuable remedies—remedies that were selected by them on the doctrine of signatures, or for other reasons that now-a-days appear to us as absurdly ridiculous ; yet when proved, these very drugs have in every case been shown to bear a homœopathic relationship to the diseases curable by them. Our provings reveal a large number of ear symptoms ; admit that nearly every remedy that has been proved acts upon the ear, and admit also a crushing defect in the practical application of our system of pathogenesis. If such symptoms are true expressions of drug action, then why is it more use is not made of them ? Those who condemn me for my mode of procedure ought, in reason, to show, from their own practice, the reliability of such symptoms as guides to the acquisition of specifics in ear cases. This has never been done on a scale commensurate with practical requirements, and for the simple reason I have stated in the articles “ One Dose, One Value” and “ The Frequency Law” of February and March, 1893, in the *Homœopathic World*.

The last remedy, *viola odorata*, upon which I dwelt was brought under my notice in a very simple way. A professional lady singer, in the course of conversation upon our garden plants as remedies in disease, told me that on first interviewing a noted prima donna, the latter rushed at her the moment my friend entered, and plucking a bouquet of violets from her dress, threw it out of the window, with the exclamation, “ You'll never sing as long as you keep those there!” The idea suggested itself to me, from this, that the violet possibly disarranges the entire vocal apparatus, and thus led me to make trial of it.

In a man of about forty, whose ear had not discharged for about seven months after *viola tricolor* $\phi A.$, a pain came in the left eustachian tube, and then this ear discharged with a trickling sensation inside the ear for three days, and then dried up—showing, as our provings had already done, a strong relationship between the odorator and tricolor varieties of the violet.

Our next remedy is the common wallflower (*cheiranthus cheiri*) a tincture made from the single dark-flowered plant. No proving of this remedy has come under my notice, yet I consider the following case worth reporting :

T. T., age twenty, a clerk ; admission-date, 30th April, 1892 ; never heard well on the left side, but particularly deaf the last month, and deafness increases ; watch hearing, contact only. History of much earache in childhood ; left ear discharges, but the discharge does not run out. Wisdom teeth ; left upper and right lower and upper breaking through. *Cheiranthus cheiri*, $\phi A.$

28th May, hears very much better ; left, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. No medicine. 11th June, continues improving gradually ; left, 15 inches. 25th June, continues to hear voices very fairly on the left side, but no improvement since last time ; left, 15 in. *Cheiranthus cheiri*, $\phi A.$

25th July, restoration of improving condition ; left, 20 in. No medicine.

6th August, 1892, getting on very well ; hearing in every way satisfactory ; left, 25 inches.

From this it would appear that towards the end of about six weeks the effects wrought by the remedy had become exhausted, for from the 30th of April to the 25th of June no dose was given, and improvement seemed to cease about the 11th of June. Immediately after the dose of the 25th of June improvement again began. The case most certainly proves, as decidedly as it is possible to prove such a matter by a single case, that the solitary uninterfered with dose is the best method of giving remedies in deaf cases, for during many years of experience in these cases I have very seldom, if ever, completed a cure of such a form of deafness by repeated dosing. It is too soon to say what is the indication in the case for *cheiranthus* : the fact of the wisdom teeth erupting may perhaps be an indication—for in another case that dated three years back to measles, and in which the wisdoms were barely showing through, in a girl of twenty-two, it has unaided improved the hearing in a way similarly to the above.

Should this be the indication, it allies *cheiranthus cheiri* with

magnesia carbonica, though the symptom “ the wisdom teeth make their appearance” gives us but scant support for prescribing magnesia in the deafness accompanying this adult dentition. Cheiranthus cheiri ϕ A. took away at once a pain in the lower back, with jaundiced appearance and bilious feeling accompanied by sickness of stomach, for which the patient, a girl of about twenty, was in the habit of taking purgative pills.

This completes my observations up to the present on the common wallflower. It may be interesting to turn up Culpepper, and see what he has to say on the subject of the wallflower :

“ Government and virtues. The moon rules them. Galen, in his seventh book of simple remedies, saith that the yellow wallflowers work more powerfully than any of the other kinds, and is therefore of more use in physic. It cleanseth the blood and freeth the liver and reins from obstruction, provoketh women's courses, expelleth the secundine and dead child, helpeth the hardness and pains of the mother, and of the spleen also ; stayeth inflammation and swellings, comforteth and strengtheneth any weak part or out of joint, helpeth to cleanse the eyes from mist or films over them, and to cleanse foul and filthy ulcers of the mouth or any other part, and is a singular remedy for the gout and all aches and pain in the joints and sinews. A conserve made of flowers is used for a remedy both for apoplexy and palsie.”—Culpepper, p. 258 ; *The English Physician*, London. John Streater, 1666.

30^A, GEORGE ST., HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.
